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DRAFT MEMORANDUM - EUR/[illegible] Tumminia:mw:12/6/78

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To: The Record

From: Frank Tumminia

Subject: Visit to Jonestown, February 2, 1978

During my orientation trip to Guyana January-February 1978, I visited Jonestown together with the Embassy's DCM, John Blacken. During the visit we held a 3-hour discussion with Jim Jones. Jones appeared quite rational, though he exhibited a distinct persecution complex. Several times during the talks, which he monopolized, Jones referred to right-wing forces in the United States which were determined to destroy the Peoples Temple and all it stood for. On the other hand, however, during the meeting Jones pointed out that he was convinced the U.S. Government was not involved in any plots against him.

During the visit, the reporting officer and Mr. Blacken had the opportunity to visit a number of facilities within the settlement. Since the tour of the settlement was made together with Jones and a number of his close advisors, including Mike Prokes, Tim Carter and Maria Katsaris, there was little opportunity to determine whether or not we were seeing the real thing. My general impression of the facility was a favorable one. It contrasted vividly with the surrounding area -- totally undeveloped, as well as the Guyanese

-own facilities in Port Kaituma, the nearest town to the settlement.

One of the things that struck me at the time and upon which I remarked to Embassy staff as well as Department officials, was my feeling that many of the people with whom I met and spoke appeared drugged and robot-like in their reactions to questions and, generally, in their behavior toward us visitors. In view of my short stay in the settlement -- a total of about four hours -- and my lack of training in what would amount to be psychiatric skill, I must qualify the above statement by saying that it was a personal reaction probably influenced by what I had read about religious brain-washing.

I could not detect any sign of violence, indication that people were being held against their will or the presence of weapons. Because my trip was not specifically of a consular nature but merely one of orientation, I made no attempt to talk with any resident of the settlement alone The only time I had the opportunity to have what amounted to a semi-private conversation with a resident, whose name I do not recall, he indicated to me that he was satisfied with conditions and had no desire to leave Jonestown.